

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.FOR 1945.

Public Health Offices.
Town Hall.
Braintree.

November 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a short Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1945. This review follows the same lines as those submitted during the war, and incorporates the work of the Sanitary Inspector's department.

The health of the District remains good and there has been no epidemic of Infectious Disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There have been no changes to report in the general health services provided in the District during 1945.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.Staff.

In September 1945, Mr. E H C Wadhams, M.R. San.I. M.S.I.A. was appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G L Turner having resigned in July, 1945.

Water.

During the year 1945, a constant and sufficient water supply of good quality was maintained. No restriction on consumption has so far been imposed.

The average consumption (daily) was as follows:-

Domestic purposes.	27.51	gals per head.
Trade	8.51	" " "
	<u>36.02</u>	

The distribution from the waterworks was:

Main supply into houses:	95% approx.
" " to standpipes:	2% approx.

The remaining 3% are supplied from private wells. No samples were taken during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The control of the Witham U.D.C. Sewage works was transferred to the Council's Sanitary Inspector in October, 1945.

Witham Sewage Works.

44 samples were submitted for examination by the Essex County Council, The Witham U D C., and the Southend Waterworks Company. Of these 37 were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory.

Silver End Sewage Works.

5 samples submitted by the Essex County Council and the Witham U.D.C. all gave satisfactory results.

Rivenhall Aerodrome Sewage Works.

4 samples submitted by the Essex County Council all gave satisfactory results.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

The combined collection instituted in 1940 continued throughout 1945. Salvage collection during the year produced £404, made up as follows:

	£
Waste paper:	250
Kitchen Waste:	38
Rags and Sacking:	35
Metal, Various:	29
Bones:	40
Skins:	8
Bottles:	4
	<hr/>
	£404

Housing.

Condemned property continued to be occupied under licence.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were inspected during the year. 54 samples of milk and rinsings were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 12 proved unsatisfactory, and were the subject of investigation and advice to producers and retailers.

Meat and Foods.

The number of animals slaughtered during the period was 6,470 of which 6,403 were inspected. (99%). As a result of inspections the total weight of meat and offal condemned was 25 tons. 17 cwts. 2 qrs. 7 lbs. of which 20 tons. 1 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs. was affected with tuberculosis.

Of all animals inspected 13.1% were found to be affected with Tuberculosis and 6.6% by other diseased conditions.

Visits paid by the Sanitary Inspector during the year were 672, of which 605 were paid to the slaughterhouse, and 67 to butchers' shops.

Food (other than fresh meat) condemned during the year: 791 lbs, of which 562 lbs was tinned or preserved food.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.


The following list shows the number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease reported during 1945:-

Whooping Cough.	13	Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Scarlet Fever.	11	Puerperal Pyrexia.	1
Measles.	75	Erysipelas.	1
Dysentery.	2	Pneumonia.	1

There was one death from Cerebro-spinal Fever, and one from Measles in 1945.

Tuberculosis

16 new cases were notified during the year, and were made up as follows:-



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Respiratory.

Non-Respiratory.

Male	Female	Male	Female.
8	5	2	1

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 44, and was made up as follows:-

Respiratory.

Non-Respiratory.

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
20	13	6	5

During the year, there were 2 deaths of persons on the Tuberculosis Register.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Sessions continue to be held at the Child Welfare Centre, Witham each month and at the Silver End Child Welfare Centre, when necessary.

At the end of 1945 the total number of children immunised in the Urban District was as follows:-

Children aged 5 - 15 (i.e. school Children)	1,236
Children under 5 years (i.e. pre-school Children)	480

These figures represent approximately 99% and 76% of the present child population in the respective age groups

EVACUATION.

By the end of December, 1945, the number of evacuees in the District had decreased considerably. Only three unaccompanied children, twenty-nine mothers and children and eight other adults remained in the area.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council Officers who have kindly assisted me in compiling this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.G. BENJAMIN.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

